



SKYWARN

Operator Awareness Training



St. Louis Metro ARES and RACES
Bob Gale, WA4GDX - AEC

WHEN TO REPORT

- **Only after the SKYWARN NET has been activated**
 - **FYI** - the Net is activated ONLY if:

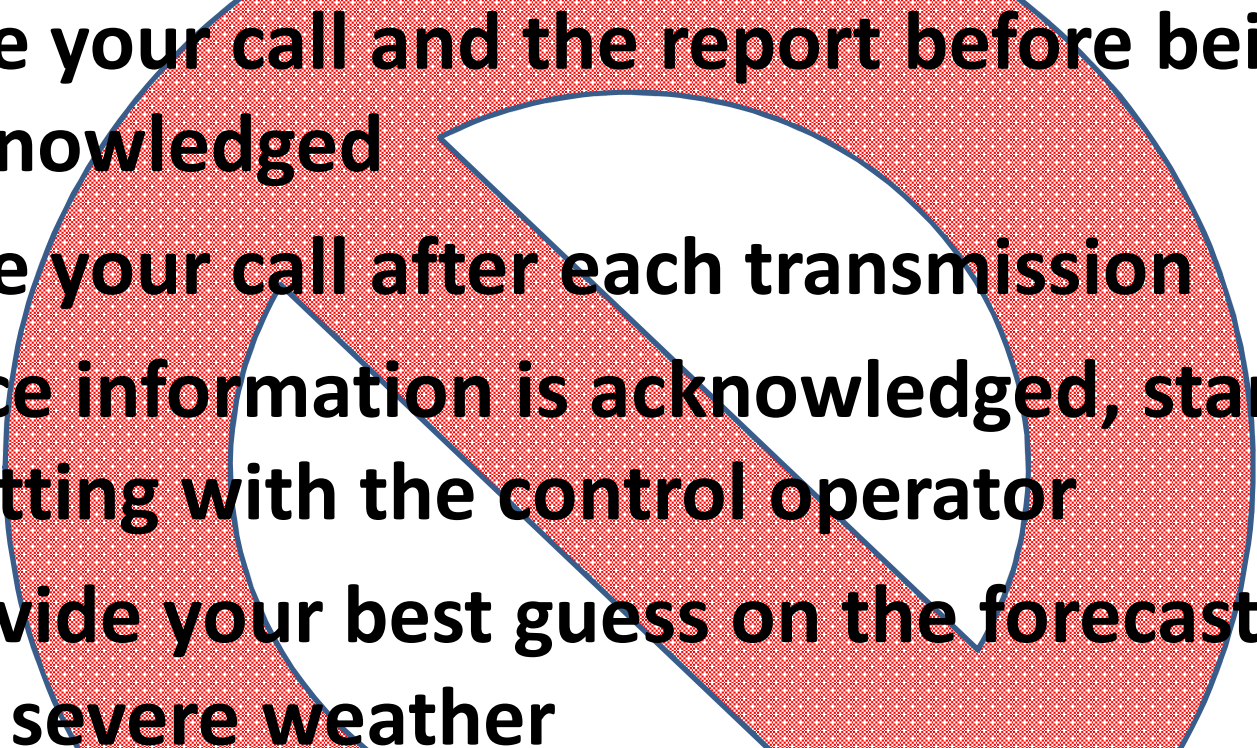
The St. Louis National Weather Service office has issued the following:

- **A "Severe Thunderstorm Warning" and or "Tornado Warning" has been issued for one of the surrounding counties (Lincoln, St. Charles, Franklin or Jefferson) AND the SEVERE WEATHER is headed for St. Louis City or County, based on the iNWS Chat site or a NWS bulletin, ONLY if St. Louis County or City is under a WATCH**
- **A "Severe Thunderstorm Warning" and or "Tornado Warning" for the St. Louis Co and/or St. Louis City has been issued**
- **Determination is made by an EOC Staff Member for activation other than for weather**

HOW TO REPORT

- Give your call and wait to be recognized
- Once recognized, provide the following
 - Call
 - Spotter Number
 - Location
 - Severe Weather being reported
- Once information is acknowledged, give your call and end your transmission

HOW NOT TO REPORT

- Give your call and the report before being acknowledged
 - Give your call after each transmission
 - Once information is acknowledged, start chit chatting with the control operator
 - Provide your best guess on the forecast of the severe weather
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WHAT TO REPORT

- **Tornados**
 - What damage did you observe?
 - How long was it on the ground?
 - When did it start and end?
 - How wide was it? How far did it travel (if known)?
- **Wall Clouds**
 - Report if clouds are rotating and how long they have existed
- **Funnel Clouds**
 - Watch for organization, persistence and rotation
- **Lightning**
 - Only report lightning when damage or injuries occur
- **Hail**
 - Report the size of the largest stone and any damage.
 - To estimate size, compare hail to well known objects such as coins or balls

WHAT TO REPORT (cont.)

- **Wind**

MPH

DAMAGE OBSERVED

- | | |
|---------|---|
| • 39-46 | twigs break off trees; moving cars veer |
| • 47-54 | slight structural damage occurs; shingles may blow away |
| • 55-63 | trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs |
| • >64 | widespread damage occurs |

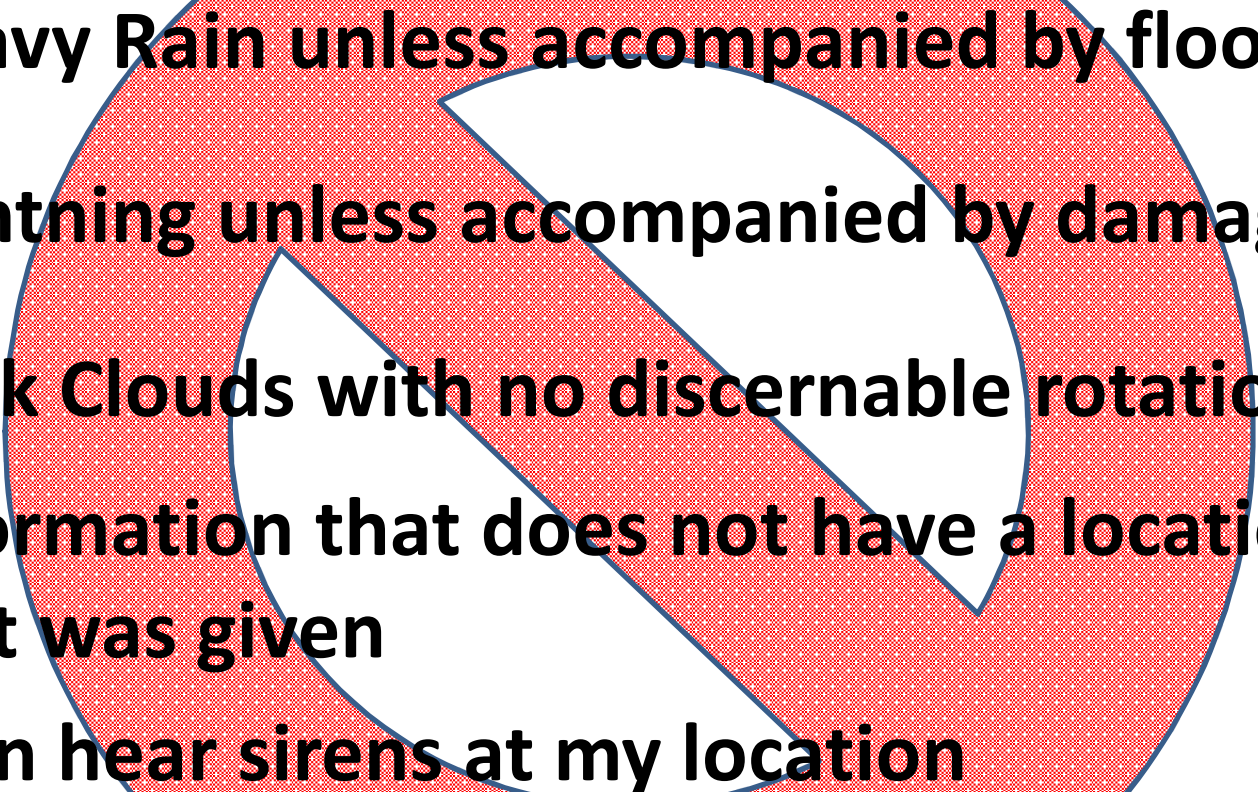
- **Wind Damage to structures**

- Is the damage to a well-built structure or a weak outbuilding?
- What is the main building material for the structure: wood, brick, metal, concrete, etc.?
- If the structure is a mobile home, was it anchored down?

- **Flash Flooding**

- Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving approx. water depth.
- Standing water or is it flowing?
- Water level continuing to rise, staying steady or falling?
- Is the flooding occurring in a known flood prone area?
- Any damage from the flooding or mud slides?

WHAT NOT TO REPORT

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- **Heavy Rain unless accompanied by flooding**
 - **Lightning unless accompanied by damage**
 - **Dark Clouds with no discernable rotation**
 - **Information that does not have a location that was given**
 - **I can hear sirens at my location**



**Your thanks in keeping our St. Louis
Metro Area a StormReady
Community**

